(c) to what extent the democratic experiment in Nepal would be sustainable given the growing influence of Maoists in Nepal's political scenario;

(d) whether resurgence of Nepal's Maoist forces is a threat to India's internal security in terms of further strengthening of Maoism and Naxalism in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken to counter the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Government has maintained a consistent policy towards Nepal. It has all along been of the view that the challenges facing Nepal can only be addressed through a genuine process of dialogue and reconciliation between the constitutional forces of Nepal based on the principle of multi-party democracy.

A lasting solution to the challenges facing Nepal has to be found by the people of Nepal themselves through a peaceful political process. There can be no purely military solution to the problems facing Nepal. The Maoist movement must abandon the path of violence and accept the principles of multi-party democracy thereby creating conditions for joining the political mainstream.

Government is aware of he threats to India's security posed by the Maoist insurgency in Nepal. All necessary measures are being taken to safeguard India's national security interests.

Regional passport offices in Uttar Pradesh

*492. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of proper staff at the regional passport offices in the States, particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to the staff shortage the 'Haj Pilgrims' in U.P. have to face a lot of difficulties;

(c) whether Central Government are taking action for providing proper staff strength at the passport offices in Uttar Pradesh to enable all the persons seeking passports to get them well in time; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are three Regional Passport Offices in Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow, Bareilly, Ghaziabad. There is no shortage of staff in Bareilly. However, Passport Offices in Lucknow and Ghaziabad have some shortage of staff, and this shortage has been addressed by enlisting the services of casual workers.

(b) No, Sir. However, there were delays in some cases due to late receipt of Police Verification Reports, shortage in supply of passport booklets by the India Security Press, Nashik and submission of incomplete information and documents by the applicants.

(c) and (d) The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance has recently carried out a detailed work-study in Passport Offices in India. The SIU has recommended creation of 293 additional posts in various categories; a proposal for augmentation of staff has been submitted to the competent authorities for approval.

Revival of coastline

M93. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are all set for revival of India's coastline and have approached the Planning Commission to seek World Bank's assistance of Rs. 500 crores to shave India's 7516 km. long coastline; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr MS Swaminathan to "carry out a quick but comprehensive review of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, in the light of the findings and recommendations of all previous commitees, judicial pronouncements, representations of various stakesholders and suggest suitable amendments, if necessary, to make the regulatory framework consistent with well established scientific principles of coastal zone management."

Ministry of Environment & Forests, based on the recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan Committee to review the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, conducted discussions with the World Bank and